

The New ZI/TEL Bulletin Board — Part 2

by Jay Sage, sysop

Last time, in my first article in this series on our new computer bulletin board system (BBS), I described the procedure used to call the system for the first time, to register, and to read and enter messages. This time I will introduce the subject of exchanging files with the system. This is a very valuable function of a BBS, since there is a lot of very high quality free software there for the taking. Some of it is called shareware, which means that you are supposed to send the author some money

if you make regular use of the program. In either case, however, you can download the program and try it out at no cost. As you gain experience, you may be able to help other users by contributing such software that you have obtained elsewhere (or, perhaps, even wrote yourself).

At the end of the last column I mentioned "doors" and suggested that you learn how to enter "door 2" at

Continued on page 8

Upcoming Meetings

The meeting schedule is not cast in stone. We are still very much open to suggestions, both for alternative subjects and for specifics of what you would like our planned subjects to include.

October 10, 1989

Joint meeting on the subject of compatibility. We will especially focus on ways to move files between CP/M and MS-DOS computers at the operating system as well as application levels.

November 14, 1989

CP/M - A look at two major application programs from the public domain: VDE/ZDE, surprisingly powerful wordprocessors, and PCFILE, a flat-file database manager. These remarkable programs have corresponding MS-DOS shareware programs, so you can use the same working environment under both DOS and CP/M and move files back and forth with ease.

MS-DOS - A look at graphical interfaces. We'll investigate the Windows and GEM environments.

December 12, 1989

A joint meeting in keeping with the holiday season will feature fun and games with computers. We hope to set up an arcade of DOS and CP/M computers on which you can see the games in action.

January 9, 1990

The MS-DOS subgroup will discuss fonts concentrating on Bitstream products. The CP/M subgroup will look at interesting and professional printing programs. Bradford, FansiFont, EP, and TeX will be included.

February 13, 1990

Various tax programs — some fancy, some less fancy. These programs may take a little of the pain out of the pain!

March 13, 1990

The annual telecommunications meeting. The groups will meet together for an overview of what telecommunications is all about. Then we will split up to look at some of the major software packages that are available.

April 17, 1990

In separate meetings both groups will examine multi-tasking environments. The CP/M group will look at BackGrounder-ii and SPAWN. The MS-DOS group will examine Windows, Double Dos, Carousel, and Deskview.

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MS-DOS EDITOR: Michael Spampinato
CP/M EDITOR: Hal Vogel
TELECOMMUNICATIONS EDITOR:
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: ZI/TEL is a volunteer group of owners who have banded together to share information and solve problems related to their computers, accessories and software.

ZI/TEL meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Greater Boston Educational Center (GBREC) located in the Otiscon Junior High School in Arlington Heights. Programs include lectures, panels, and open-ended discussions. Meeting notices are carried in the BCS UP-DATE.

If you live more than 75 miles away and wish merely to subscribe to The Kugel, send \$15 for a year's subscription to ZI/TEL, 27 Howland Rd., W. Newton, MA 02165. Foreign subscriptions are \$20 US. Please send change of address information to the BCS; enclose your old mailing label.

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ZI/TEL and The Boston Kugel value your comments, opinions, and contributions. Please write to us, or call us with your thoughts.

Editor Bows Out

This issue of the *Boston Kugel* marks the end of my tenure as editor. I wish I could tell you that a new editor is in place, but as I write this a successor is not yet ready to roll.

I am relinquishing this position because the time I can devote to the *Kugel* has dwindled a great deal and I cannot reliably produce issues in a regular fashion, as you may have noticed. The erratic appearance of the newsletter, in turn, squanders opportunities and goodwill for the entire group.

Therefore, *somebody* has a great opportunity to use his or her talents, contribute vitally to ZI\TEL, learn new software, become known far and wide as a BSC activist, and generally have a good time. The *Kugel* is necessary to the well-being of ZI\TEL, and the recent consolidation will make it even more important. I hope someone out there is willing to take a stab at continuing the newsletter tradition and I urge you to consider seriously taking on the responsibility of producing it.

The tasks can be divided into several positions. There are four functions that need to be done:

- Assign and edit articles. This involves talking with authors about story ideas, tracking down meeting schedules, telephone numbers and other information, and reminding everyone concerned of deadlines. It also involves editing the work for style and accuracy.
- Line up advertising. This has been almost totally neglected by me; the health of the group would be enhanced greatly should someone volunteer to perform this function.
- Design and compose the layout of the newsletter. This involves using desktop publishing tools and printing camera ready copy on a laser printer. Perhaps we can get the BCS to handle this function.
- Work with the BCS office. This involves delivering the camera ready copy, mailing labels, and any special instructions to the BCS publications staff.

The main qualifications needed for any of these functions are perseverance, inventiveness, common sense, curiosity, and attention to detail. Normal, literate, computer-savvy people can handle the editorial and design with just a little experience. ("Don't use four words when one will do; don't use six typefaces when two will do; use a spelling checker.") Truthfully, I cannot speak for what it takes to obtain advertising, but a glance at the *Active Window* or the *PC Report* suggests that there are plenty of advertisers out there.

If a volunteer is willing, or if several volunteers are willing, to get into this business, I'll be happy to assist him, her, or them to get started.

I've enjoyed editing the *Kugel* immeasurably. It has provided me the opportunity to work with talented and inspiring people, to try out new technologies, and most of all, to contribute in a small way to the magical world of ideas.

—JG

On Board CP/M

By Hal Vogel

Is There a Plus Using the New WORD + ?

WordStar version 4 comes bundled with what some have described as CP/M's best spell checker - THE WORD PLUS (WORD +). Many who purchased CP/M Kaypros got this as a separate program bundled with the hardware. Since WordStar 3.3 also came packaged with these Kaypros, many assumed it was a part of that version of WordStar. It wasn't.

Actually, another spell checker was supposed to be integrated with WS3.3 and accessible from the main menu. Most never got it. They were the lucky ones. WORD + performed much better — and still does.

Soon there were hackers who figured out how to access WORD + from within WS3.3. It was a fine marriage. MicroPro must have agreed. When WS4 finally came to CP/M, it came with WORD +. To the casual user it might appear identical to the 1981 version of WORD + that most of us already have. All the same parts are there. They are accessed and perform the same way. The documentation in the WordStar 4 manual is virtually identical to that of the WORD + (Kaypro) manual. Both manuals even state the same number of words are in the main dictionary (MAINDICT.CMP). But the latter doesn't appear to be true.

MAINDICT.CMP on the new WS4 dictionary disk is 26K larger than that on the disk that came with the separate program (TW v1.22). Since both offerings seemed so much alike, I assumed that the "new" dictionary disk simply had a version that had been compiled with a less tidy compression scheme. After all, both manuals said the dictionaries were the same size (45,000 words).

But this apparently isn't the case. Fortunately! It appears that the WS4 dictionary is larger because it has more words. Assuming the compression ratio is the same, it would seem that the new MAINDICT.CMP has about 10,000 *more* words than the older version.

I tested this against my UPDICT.CMP which has almost five years worth of words that I have added to the old dictionary. To my surprise, 1600 of the UPDICT.CMP's 3000 + entries now were in MAINDICT.CMP. I checked UPDICT.CMP using the new MAINDICT.CMP, having the program mark all those words that were not found. About 1600 were left over. I double-checked by running FIND.COM on some of the newly found words that the new

MAINDICT.CMP now claimed it contained. Sure enough, they were found. FIND.COM failed to find them in the old MAINDICT.CMP.

That's the good news. More words come in the new MAINDICT.CMP on WS4's dictionary disk. The bad news is that some of the "old" words no longer are there. It isn't a direct exchange. There just seems to have been some faulty transferring. Small chunks of the old dictionary are not to be found in the new one.

For example, if you run FIND PRAC* on the new MAINDICT.CMP that comes with WS4 it will find nothing — no words beginning with PRAC. If you do this with the old MAINDICT.CMP that came with WORD + bundled

The bad news is that some of the "old" words no longer are there. . . Small chunks of the old dictionary are not to be found in the new one.

originally with your Kaypro you will find ten entries from PRACTICABILITY to PRACTITIONERS. That whole portion is missing from the new MAINDICT.CMP. The same can be found in other sections of MAINDICT.CMP. Small segments have been omitted that previously were in its former version.

The remedy is simple. When I notice an obvious omission during a spell check, I run a FIND.COM on that segment of the dictionary. For example, when I noticed during a spelling check that it presented PRACTICE as a possible misspelling (or omission from the dictionary), I ran FIND.COM on MAINDICT.CMP searching for all words that began with PRAC (FIND PRAC*). Doing the same with the replaced MAINDICT.CMP revealed the exclusions. These gaps normally appear as entirely omitted chunks of a section. Once I found five missing words in a row. In the case of PRAC*, I found eleven.

They weren't missing for long since fortunately there is a way of adding them to our search resources. I dump-to-file the omitted section (vocabulary words) from where they are shown on the screen in the old dictionary and add them to WORD + 's customized dictionary file (UPDICT.CMP). Of course, we can't physically enter the compressed MAINDICT.CMP to extract any words or sections. But if you have a screen dump capability, such as with BACK-GRINDER and/or the TurboROM, you can display the section of missing words and dump it into a disk file.

Using DICTSORT and a few other, simple steps explained in the manual, the file's words can be added to your UPDICT.CMP. If you are only dealing with a few words each time, it is easier just to run WORD + on that file and have it automatically add (using the "U" option) the omitted words.

So far I've found several omitted sections whose short list of words had to be added to UPDICT.CMP. But judging from the number of words I have been able to delete from my old UPDICT.CMP (because they now ARE found in the new MAINDICT.CMP), it appears that the trade-off is worth it.

Some of you may already have found that MAINDICT.CMP is not the only different file

Remember the first CP/M utility you ever used? If PIP wasn't it, then it probably was because you first had to format a disk — in order to use it.

in the WORD + offered with WS4. The two TW.COM's aren't the same, either. The "older" one that most of us got years ago is version 1.22. The WS4 version's TW.COM displays itself as version 1.21. A CRC check of both programs reveal that they are slightly different.

Since I never had a problem running version 1.22, and since it performs well with the new MAINDICT.CMP, I didn't bother switching to the "new" version packaged with WS4. My philosophy is that newer versions normally work better than older ones (provided no operational bugs are present in revisions).

What this all means is that I'm using my old WORD + with the new WS4 -- except for the dictionary. WS4's MAINDICT.CMP has replaced the dictionary file that came with the originally procured version. Saying it another way, you would have an advantage switching to the version of WORD + that comes with WS4, although if you have TW.COM from the one you got earlier, you might just like to replace the version that WS4 provides. It might not help, but so far it doesn't seem to hurt. And someday you just might need whatever was put into the older TW.COM that made it 1.22.

Before feeling fully satisfied, you also might like to run your UPDICT.CMP through the new MAINDICT.CMP. Maybe you also will find a host of entries that no longer are needed. That will leave room for the omissions that you will have to add to compensate for the excisions that had been made it to the new MAINDICT.CMP.

On The Boards

Remember the first CP/M utility you ever used? If PIP wasn't it, then it probably was because you first had to format a disk — in order to use it. PIP has endured the years (and DOS) well with only a few reincarnations. The most notable probably is Kelly Smith and P.L. Kelley's RPIP (resettable PIP). It retained PIP's features and added the ability to disk swap and also quick repeat during batch operations.

Now there's another generation of PIP that updates PIP's commands and builds in a few more niceties, while slimming its girth. New PPIP.COM (latest version appears to be PPIP173) is half the size of old PIP or RPIP - but it also lacks its more esoteric features.

You don't have to be a genius to learn how to command PIP or RPIP to copy one file from one drive/user area to another with verification, for example

```
PIP B: = A:FILENAME[VOG10]
```

Just don't tell my fingers that. I dread to count the times I mistyped a zero for the "o" in "VO," and the other times I erred typing the correct brackets and user number. In fact, I made one typo just while entering that example into this manuscript. Although it works, old PIP's command line convention just seems unnatural.

David Jewett III sensed this as well and resolved it by even adding a nice touch for those living in the dual worlds of CP/M and DOS. His PPIP can be commanded by either of two conventions. One he calls "CP/M" and the other follows DOS's copy sequence. Either can be used at any time.

The so-called CP/M choice follows the old PIP's traditional **destination = source** standard. But it's a bit easier to handle. There are no brackets nor get-from notations. File locations are addressed in a sensible manner, such as

```
PPIP DU:DESTFILE = DU:SOURCEFILE
```

The equal sign remains, but notice how file locations (destination and source) are handled in a more logical way than in the old PIPs.

Interestingly, the alternate command convention adheres to DOS structure, so people going back and forth between CP/M and MS/PCDOS won't be confused any longer by the opposing copy conventions. The DOS syntax is:

```
PPIP DU:SOURCEFILE DU:DESTFILE
```

Notice that there is a space between the source and destination, as it is with DOS's COPY command. The CP/M style uses an equal sign in this space (with no blank spaces on either side, just as in the old PIPs). Remember, the "DOS" style for entering a command is NOT for copying

DOS files. It is just one of two style options in PPIP for copying files in CP/M.

The second significant difference (and nice feature) is the ability to run-time toggle or make a default certain copying options. The six toggles (preceded by a "/") are identified by a single letter:

/A = copies if the archive attribute bit isn't set

/V = verifies

/C = reports CRC number from verification process

/M = erases SOURCE after copying to a destination

/E & /W = override copying-over messages

/A would seem to have little use under many versions of CP/M, but it's there. NZCOM is a one of the exceptions that can make use of this. Default is OFF (i.e., if you don't touch it, it doesn't do anything). It can't be patched either as a default into the program. The others can. For example, using DDT (and the addresses provided in the PPIP.DOC file) you can embed any or all of the remaining toggle options so that they work each time you use PPIP — without otherwise telling it.

This is especially nice in the case of /V and /C. I assume most of us want to know if we made an accurate copy, especially of binary files. In the old PIPs this required adding [vo] ("verify object code") option. With PPIP you either add a "/V" or do nothing (if that address is patched ["FF"] ON). Including "/C" (or also patching its address ON) reports the CRC number. I find this comforting, so patched it ON.

/M is an exciting addition to PIP. Typing this toggle (or patching its address ON) deletes the SOURCE after the DESTINATION file is written. Under old PIPs this would be a two step operation if writing to different drives (moving to another user area of the same drive can employ MAKE.COM that removes the file from its former user area when it shifts it [actually changes its UA byte designation in its directory listing] to its new user area). You'd have to return to erase the SOURCE. Now PPIP does it in one typing step. Of course, if you don't want to delete the SOURCE file, it will remain if you don't use the /M toggle.

I can't imagine why anyone would want to use toggles that don't automatically question you before overwriting duplicate files, especially ones that are R/O. But in the event there is a good reason for this, these toggles exist (/E and /W). Otherwise, PPIP defaults to letting you know when you are about to overwrite a file by the same name in the same DU: and asks for permission to continue.

PPIP also remembers the name of the last file it copied and warns you if you should be copying

two files with the same name to the same DU:. Unfortunately, it only works if the copies are back-to-back, but this is better than no duplication protection.

Old PIPs' [z], append files and other options (other than verification and get-from) are not supported. But I would suspect that they receive little demand now anyway. Today we have other ways of dealing with these features. PPIP does have a "crude text editor," but I didn't explore it. PPIP works with submit, ZCPR, drives to "P," user areas to "31" and includes file dating under DATESTAMPER. Wildcards are amply accommodated and there doesn't seem to be any speed loss. In fact, I thought I detected a slight speed improvement over the old PIPs. However, any performance increase wasn't enough to make it a significant differentiating factor.

If you use the old PIPs for file copying and don't call upon their more esoteric features (or RPIP's disk swapping and repeat functions), and sometimes you becomes confused by the difference between CP/M and DOS copying conventions, relief may be on our board under PPIP173.ARK (or PPIP18.ARK that additionally includes provisions for running under a Z-System with and without DATESTAMPER).

From the Department of Corrections, Amplifications, and Assorted Editorial Excuses
In last issue's discussion of patching WordStar, the fifth line on page 8 should read:

This is ^P<ESC>Wnot ^P<ESC>&the way to do it!

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Back to Work: Refurbishing the Kaypro 2000

by Michael Bartell

At home an AT-Clone with wordprocessing programs, spreadsheets, motion picture software sits on my desk. At work an IBM Selectric typewriter sits on a desk across from me. Now, if I could only take my work the office... if I only had a second computer...

If the above lament sounds familiar, read on. I know the problem, and I've done something about it. I administer the film program at Emerson College. This necessitates writing reports, memos, syllabi, exams, and letters of recommendation. Personal film projects include revising scripts, budgets, and script breakdowns. Since the college can't afford to put a computer on every faculty member's desk, I picked up an old, dusty and neglected transportable Kaypro 2000 for a song.

The Kaypro 2000 meets my requirements for a second computer. It can be securely stored in a lockable file cabinet when I'm out of the office. It is easy to carry the 2000 to where the printers are kept when I am ready to print out files. The single 720K drive can handle the word processing and spreadsheet programs which I use on a regular basis.

With a few set-up modifications to the program disks, and a few hardware accessories, the Kaypro 2000 helps me to get more work done at the office. While my word processing, spreadsheet, and motion picture software run slower on the 8088 and the single 720K 3-1/2" drive, and while the non-backlit LCD screen scrunches letters a bit, the refurbished Kaypro 2000 package I've put together performs many day-to-day tasks quite well.

Getting it to set up was not without problems. To begin with, the old Kaypro 2000 has only a serial port. My Epson printer has a parallel input. To solve this problem I purchased a parallel interface converter. [I purchased a discounted Micro MW-100 K interface from a dealer. Both Jameco (415) 592-8097 and MISCO 1-800-631-2227 sell parallel interface converters through mail order.] The parallel interface converter requires a separate power supply to run so I purchased one from Radio Shack, along with a submini-type phone plug to

mini plug phone adaptor to fit the parallel interface converter power connector.

The parallel interface converter is connected between the RS-232 serial port of the Kaypro 2000 and the centronics parallel port of the printer. (Be aware that the serial port of the Kaypro 2000 is hidden behind a pull-out rubber guard on the left side of the machine.) Once the interface converter power supply is plugged in, the hardware is ready to use.

The interface converter must also be addressed by the software. Two lines must be entered at the command prompt to initialize the system:

```
MODE COM1:96,N,8,2,P
MODE LPT1:=COM1:
```

The first line sets the serial communications port to the right baud, parity, databits, stopbits, and printer retry output settings. The second line redirects the software parallel printer output to the serial port. That is, it sets the Kaypro serial port to transmit what most software sends to parallel printer output port LPT1:. I've placed these two commands into a batch file called PRINTER.BAT which is booted from the AUTOEXEC.BAT file each time the computer is turned on.

The next step is to format disks for the 720K 3.5" drive. These disks should be formatted as system disks. Moreover, since the Kaypro 2000 runs a special version of MS-DOS 2.11, disks should be formatted and sysed on the Kaypro. (If the disk has been previously formatted, it may be necessary to bulk erase this disk before formatting it on the Kaypro.) Boot the Kaypro using the system disk and prepare to format a new disk by typing

```
FORMAT /S
```

at the command prompt. A prompt will appear on the screen asking for a new unformatted disk to be placed in the B: drive. Because A: and B: alternate as drive letters for the single drive, in operations such as formatting and file copying, it is necessary to take out the boot disk and to put in the new disk. Do not expect other versions of DOS to run on the Kaypro. I've found that PC-DOS 3.3 will not run.

Applications software can be transferred to these system disks. This is most easily accomplished using a desktop computer which has a 3.5" drive. Simply copy the needed program files to the formatted 3.5" disk. It may be necessary to place features of certain programs on separate disks since disk space is limited to 720K less the 42K taken up by DOS. For example, WordPerfect's dictionary must be placed on a second disk, where the feature will still

work if the disks are swapped during the spell checking operation. Lotus 1-2-3 will run using only the 123.* files of the program, if features such as graphs and reinstallation aren't needed. In fact, it is best to set up the proper installation of a program on a fast desk-top before copying files to the Kaypro 720K 3.5" disk.

The Kaypro system disks should also contain a CONFIG.SYS file and an AUTOEXEC.BAT file, along with KSTATUS.COM, KBOOT.COM, and the PRINTER.BAT file which I described earlier. CONFIG.SYS can consist of the following:

```
files = 20
buffers = 20
```

AUTOEXEC.BAT can consist of the following:

```
verify on
prompt $p$g
path = a:\
kstatus
kboot
printer
```

Verify on checks the system hardware, **prompt** sets the prompt appearance, **path** sets the path, **kstatus** places a resident program in memory with which the battery charge can be checked and the internal modem can be turned on (using the ctrl-alt-S key sequence), **kboot** helps enter the date and time, and **printer** sets the communications port for use with the parallel interface converter. The system disks with the application programs can now be used to boot the computer and to run the programs.

Don't expect too much life from the internal battery of the Kaypro 2000. The battery may no longer take a full charge if the computer has been lying around for a long time. (If the battery doesn't work, check the position of the switch located under the left side of the lid, just above the serial port.) Even a fully charged battery runs the computer for only a short time. Expect to rely on the Kaypro external power supply when working.

Obviously the Kaypro 2000 is not truly "lapable" when carting round the computer external power supply, the parallel interface converter, the interface converter power supply, and the disks. However, a cheap portable file folder holder is available at stationary stores such as Staples. The plastic file folder holder is about as wide and long as the Kaypro 2000, and about three times as deep. It can hold all of the Kaypro 2000 accessories for easy cartage. It also serves as a nice stand for the Kaypro 2000 to sit on for a good view of the LCD screen. The stand, together with the ctrl-alt-F1 and ctrl-alt-F2 commands allow for a readable screen.

While the refurbished Kaypro 2000 package cannot compete with the size and features of many newly released laptop computers, it does offer functionality at an attractive price. With the money you save buying that dusty, old used computer for your office, you can even afford that 3.5" disk drive for your home machine.

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The ZI\TEL BBS, continued from page 1

the PCBoard command prompt. This will take you into the ProDoor door, a second BBS program that shares the same message base and files as the main BBS program (PCBoard). ProDoor has many extremely nice features that make it much easier to use. For file transfers, I will assume that you are in ProDoor. There is just no reason to put up with the primitive facilities in PCBoard itself.

On the ProDoor main menu, there are six major choices that relate to working with files on the system. Listed alphabetically these are: D, F, L, N, U, and Z. We will take them up in logical order.

It is pretty much a general rule, by the way, that wherever you enter a directory number, you can enter a whole list of them.

Finding Out About the Files

Before you can download a file from the BBS system to your computer, you first have to know what files are on the system, and it helps to know in addition something about what the files are for. The "F" (Files) command is the main one to use for this purpose. After you enter

F <RETURN>

you will see a menu-like display of the directory areas on the system. What are these "directories?" Think of them as nothing more than logical groupings of file names. By grouping them, you don't have to read through the names of all files on the entire system when looking for those on a particular subject; you can, instead, specify that you want to see the files only in a particular category.

Once you have the listing of the directories in front of you, the prompt will ask which directories you want to have displayed. There are some other options as well. Here, as most everywhere else, there is the "H" or "?" command, which will bring up a help display. Get into the habit of using this facility! Also get into the habit of experimenting. Unless you have sysop status, it should be impossible for you to do any harm to the system or to your computer, no matter what commands you enter. So, when in doubt, experiment. It's a great way to learn!

The normal response at this point is to enter the number of the directory you want listed. Suppose you want to see if there is a better telecommunications program than the one you are

presently using on your CP/M computer. You would then enter

10 <RETURN>

to see a listing of the CP/M communications-related files. For a listing of MS-DOS files, you would enter

30 <RETURN>

Once you have done this, a listing of files will scroll onto your screen. The listing includes the name of the file, its size, its system date (usually when it was uploaded), and a brief description of what it is. For people used to the "FOR" file on CP/M BBS systems, this description is rather puny, but it's better than nothing.

The letter "U" is a convenient alias for the number of the directory that is used for new files uploaded to the system. You can use it on any PCBoard system, no matter how the directories are arranged, to see the new files. You will almost always want to look at the files here.

It is pretty much a general rule, by the way, that wherever you enter a directory number, you can enter a whole list of them. For example, if you have ecumenical interests, you might enter

10 30 U <RETURN>

to see the files in both the CP/M and MS-DOS telecomm areas and the new uploads area. It's a good idea to enter all the areas you are interested in at one time, since then you will not have to waste time displaying the menu again. The file listings are paged to the screen, so you don't have to worry about the files running off the screen out of view (unless you enter the option "NS" for "non-stop" as well, as you might if you were capturing the output to a disk file on your system — "10 30 U NS <RETURN>" would then do it).

One last hint. If you don't need the menu (perhaps because you were smart enough to capture it during a previous session and print it out), you can include the directory numbers on the same line as the "F" command. Thus you might enter:

f 10 30 u ns <RETURN>

The ability to process multiple related commands on a single line applies virtually everywhere in a PCBoard system.

Working by Date

There is another whole approach to finding files that is particularly suitable for regular callers. The "N" (New) command selects files by date so that you can see just those that are newer than some cutoff date. After you enter

N <RETURN>

you will be prompted for that date. ProDoor is nice enough to provide as a default value the date of your last login. Then you can just hit `<RETURN>` to select that date.

Next you will be asked for a list of directory areas to scan. You provide an answer just as with the "F" command. The only new option is the alias "A" (all areas) that may be quite useful. As usual, you don't have to wait to be prompted for each piece of information; you can enter it all at once as in

```
N U 30 10 <RETURN>
```

or

```
N 060189 A NS <RETURN>
```

As you can guess, ProDoor is smart enough to tell the difference between a date specifier and a directory number. If no date spec is present, it uses the default value.

Searching for Files

The "F" command is fine if you want to look at listings of the complete holdings, and "N" is good for keeping up to date. But what if you are looking for a particular file and don't know which directory it is in. It sure would be a pain to have to read through all the listings. In fact, you'd probably end up overlooking it anyway and never find it. So the "L" (Locate) and "Z" (Zippy scan) commands come to the rescue.

Both commands scan the file listing text that you saw with the "F" and "N" commands, but they allow you to have the computer search through it for text patterns. The "Z" commands takes a simple text string as its search pattern and is intended mainly for locating keywords in the file description text.

The "L" command is much more sophisticated. It is intended primarily to take a file specification (including wildcard characters) and to locate files with matching names. However, it has some very interesting and special features (not all of which I have yet figured out, to be honest!).

The "*" wildcard character does not work exactly as it does on your own computer. You can use it as you would expect ("L AM*.ZIP ...") to find file names. However, the asterisk can be used in additional ways. Placed between two characters, it represents one or more of any characters. Thus "A*B" means an "A" followed by a "B" with some other characters in between.

If you are curious you should experiment a bit with this command to see if you can discover exactly how it works. Sometimes it will work just like "Z". To me it seems quite unpredictable in many situations. There may even be some bugs in its algorithm. If you are not so curious, then

just use it with ordinary wildcard file specs to locate file names.

Downloading Files

Once you've located the file or files that you want, how do you download them? That's what the "D" (Download) command is for. We will assume that you already know how to use your communications program to transfer files.

When you are ready to download a file, enter

```
D <RETURN>
```

You will then be asked to select a transfer protocol. If you previously used the "T" (Transfer protocol) command to set a default protocol, then the selection arrow will already be at the right choice, and you can just enter a `<RETURN>`. Otherwise, select the appropriate letter.

After that, you will be prompted for one file specification after another. That is one of the nice things about ProDoor; you can transfer many files at one time. Each of these file specs can be wild. Thus you could download all the BOYAN files by entering

```
BOYAN*. * <RETURN>
```

Note that it does not matter in which directory the file resides. The directory categories are for display purposes only. A file for downloading will be found anywhere on the system from which you are authorized to download, including some (private) areas for which there are no directory displays.

When you are done making entries, just answer the prompt with a simple return. You will be prompted with one last chance to abort ("A") the file transfer in case you got into this whole sequence of commands by mistake. You can enter "S" (Start) or just `<RETURN>` to start the transfer or "G" (Goodbye) to start the transfer with instructions to log you out automatically once it is completed.

If you selected a protocol with batch transfer capability (YMODEM and ZMODEM, for example), then all the files will be transferred at once. If you selected a single-file protocol, such as XMODEM, I am not sure what happens, since I haven't had time to experiment. I think that ProDoor just generates a sequence of individual transfer commands, and you receive each file individually in turn. I always use one of the batch protocols, so I have never had to find out about this case.

As usual, the download commands can be combined on a single command line so that you can avoid some of the prompts. Thus you could enter

```
D Z BOYAN*. * S <RETURN>
```


This would immediately transfer all the BOYAN files using the ZMODEM protocol. If this were your default protocol, you could just as well have entered

D BOYAN*. * S <RETURN>

No problem will arise unless there is a file with the name "Z" or "S". In those cases, you would

have to include an explicit "." to distinguish the file name from the command option.

Combining

There is one other utterly delightful feature of ProDoor. Suppose you want to download a number of files. Ordinarily you might run the "F", "N", "L", or "Z" commands to find the names of the files. As you found each one you

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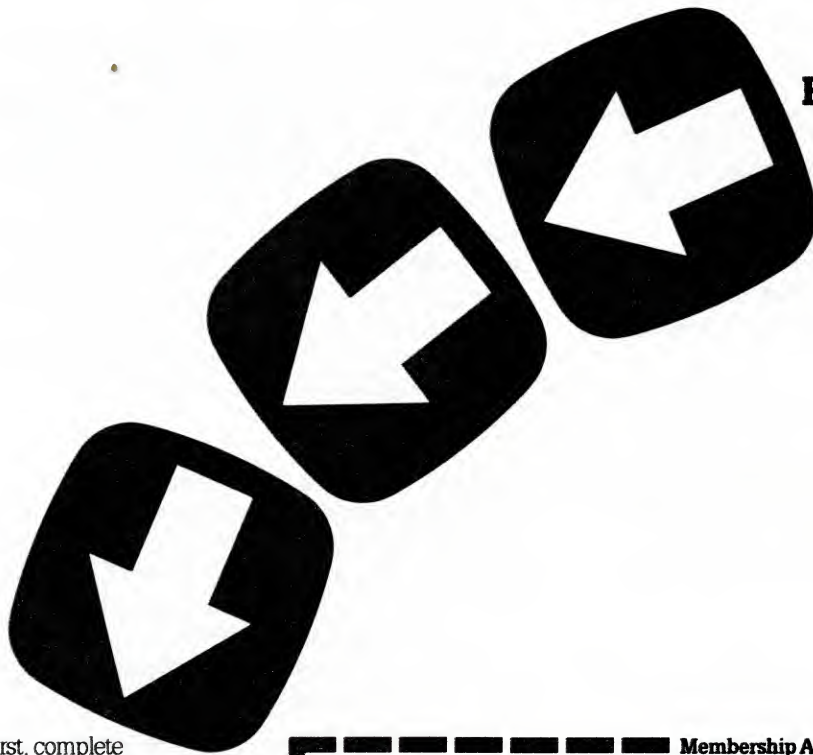
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would note its name on a sheet of paper and later you would enter them all with the "D" command. ProDoor has an easier way to do this.

Whenever you are looking at file listings produced by the "F" or "N" commands, at each page break you have the option of using the "F" (Flag) command to mark files for later downloading. Similarly, whenever you are at the main command prompt (as you will be after executing "L" or "Z" commands), you can use the "FLAG" command to mark files.

Note that at the main prompt, you cannot enter just "F", because that already has another use. It is a good idea, therefore, always to enter the command in the long form, "FLAG", since this is acceptable in both places. Note also that the argument to this command is not just a single, specific file name. It can be a whole list of wildcard file names if you wish, as in

FLAG BOYAN*.* COPY*.ZIP <RETURN>

Later, when you run the "D" command, you will find that all of the files you flagged earlier

have been entered for you automatically so you won't have to type their names again. If you choose to abort that transfer, the names will still be in the queue. If you flag some more names and then select "D" again, all of the names will be entered, both those you just flagged and those you flagged earlier. I am not sure how one unflags files in case one was flagged in error. I guess you can always exit from ProDoor back to PCBoard ("QUIT" command) and then re-enter ProDoor (I assume it will then have forgotten!). Perhaps someone can come up with a better way.

I know that I have not covered the "U" (Upload) command yet, but it is now after 1 am. I am out of time and out of energy. John Goldie is also probably out of space! So, we'll just have to leave the "U" command up to you. If you mastered the five commands discussed above, I doubt you'll have much trouble figuring out how uploads work. So that's all for this time.

Travel directions to BOSKUG

We are located at the Greater Boston Regional Education Center (GBREC pronounced "GA-BREC!"), in the Ottoson Junior High School, 75 Acton St., Arlington, MA. If you have any questions, you may call Dave Keeler at GBREC, 641-4870.)

By car

From Rte 128: Take Rt. 2 EAST 3.5 miles to Park Ave. exit. At the end of the ramp, turn LEFT at light onto Park Ave; go 0.6 miles, turn RIGHT onto Appleton St. Take fifth RIGHT onto Acton St. Acton St. dead-ends at Ottoson. Once inside, cross lobby; GBREC is one-half flight down.

From Storrow Drive: Follow Newton/Arlington signs to Rt. 2 WEST. Take Park Ave. exit, turn RIGHT onto Park Ave. Follow instructions above.

Via MBTA

From Harvard Sq: Take Bus #77 (ARLINGTON HEIGHTS) along Mass. Ave. Get off at Appleton St. (at St. James Catholic Church). Walk one block WEST on Appleton to Acton St. Walk LEFT on Acton to the Ottoson School (see above).

From Alewife Station: Take Bus #84 (ARLMONT VILLAGE) along Rt. 2 West and Park Ave. north. Get off at Appleton St., walk one block EAST to Acton, follow above instructions.

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